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(84) Designated Contracting States: AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SK TR Designated Extension States: AL LT LV MK RO SI	(72) Inventors: • Amrutur, Bharadwaj S. Santa Clara, CA 95050 (US) • Walker, Richard C. Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US)
(30) Priority: 11.12.2001 US 20605	(74) Representative: Liesegang, Roland et al FORRESTER & BOEHMERT Pettenkoferstrasse 20-22 80336 München (DE)
(71) Applicant: Agilent Technologies, Inc. Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US)	

(54)

Serial communications system and method

(57)

A communications system and method are disclosed. A transmitter (2) includes a scrambler (5) for scrambling original data, an ECC encoder (6) for converting scrambled data into ECC data, and a serializer for converting the ECC data into a serial stream. A receiver (3) includes a frame recoverer (9) for converting

the serial data into frame data, an ECC decoder (10) from converting the frame data into ECC data and error indications, and a descrambler (14) for restoring the original data. By using the results of the ECC decoding to convert the serial data into frame data, line decoding is unnecessary, thereby reducing channel usage.

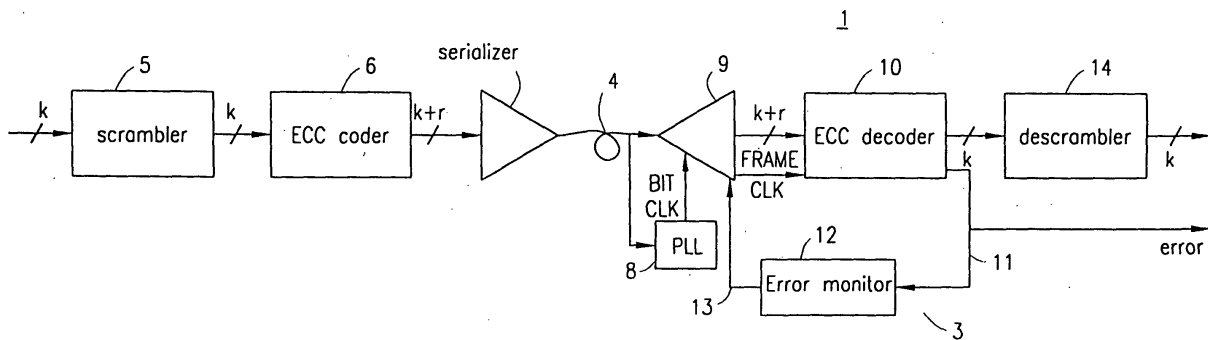


FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04J H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 26 July 2005	Examiner Carballo da Costa, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 02 02 1871

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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